

REMARKS

Support for new claim 9 can be found, for example, in Figure 12. Support for new claim 10 can be found, for example, in Figure 11. At page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner has indicated that claims 1 and 8 are allowable over the prior art of record. The claims have been amended to place them in a format more customary to US patent practice. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC §101

Claims 1-8 have been amended address the 35 USC §101 rejections and to place the claims in a format more customary to U.S. patent practice. It is believed that the rejection is now moot and thus it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 USC §101 be withdrawn.

Replacement drawing sheets

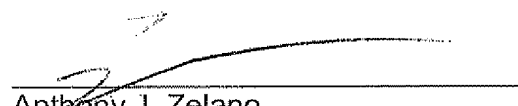
Replacement drawing sheets are attached and labeled "Replacement Sheet".

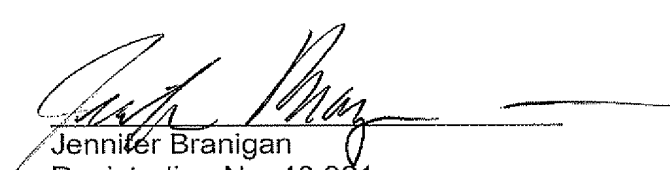
Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement and PTO form 1449 are filed herewith. The references were cited by the Japanese Patent Office. US 6,043,206 corresponds to JP2001-144044. An English language machine translation of JP 10-125642 is attached.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 CFR § 1.16 and § 1.17 which may be required to facilitate this filing, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account #13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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